

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 02372 121229Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1693

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2372

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KING, MARTIN L. SR)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DR. KING TO HUNGARY

REF: (A) STATE 7406 (B) BUDAPEST 2371

1. EMBASSY IS NOT ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER GOH IS PLANNING TO GIVE DR. KING AND DR. HARASZTI AWARDS WHEN THEY COME TO HUNGARY THIS WEEK. TO ASK PALOTAY WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO ASKING GOH WHICH HARASZTI HAS INDICATED HE DOES NOT WAN US TO DO. EMBASSY SEES NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE FOR EITHER MAN TO RECEIVE AN AWARD FROM GOH. PALOTAY AND GOH HOWEVER BOTH DEMONSTRATED AT TIME OF BILLY GRAHAM VISIT THAT THEY ARE NOT ABOVE ATTEMPTING CAPITALIZE ON VISITS BY AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. THEREFORE WE CANNOT RECOMMEND TOO STRONGLY THAT DR. HARASZTI TACKLE THE QUESTION OF "AWARDS" HEAD ON WITH PALOTAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HE (HARASZTI) AND DR. KING ARRIVE JUNE 14. EMBOFF WILL BE AT AIRPORT AT TIME OF ARRIVAL AND WILL PLAN TO TAKE HARASZTI ASIDE TO OFFER FURTHER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE ON THIS QUESTION AS NECESSARY.

2. IN THE SAME MANNER AS FOR THE VISIT OF DR. BILLY GRAHAM LAST YEAR AND THE VISIT OF CARDINAL KROL AND ARCHBISHOP BERNARDIN, HUNGARIAN CHURCH, IN THIS INSTANCE THE COUNCIL OF FREE CHURCHES, IS ACTING AS A HOST AND PROGRAMMING DR. KING FOR HIS VISIT TO HUNGARY FROM JUNE 14-22. IT WILL BE THE EMBASSY'S
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OBJECTIVE TO OFFER MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE TO DR. KING AND HIS PARTY AS WELL AS TO THE COUNCIL OF FREE CHURCHES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE WHICH WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE RELIGIOUS AND POPULAR CHARACTER OF THE VISIT. REF B DETAILS STEPS EMBASSY HAS ALREADY TAKEN AND IS PLANNING WHICH WE HOPE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS OF DR. KING'S VISIT.
KAISER

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